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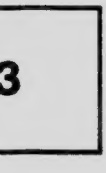

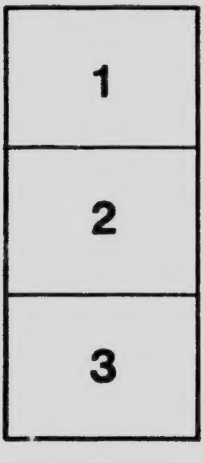

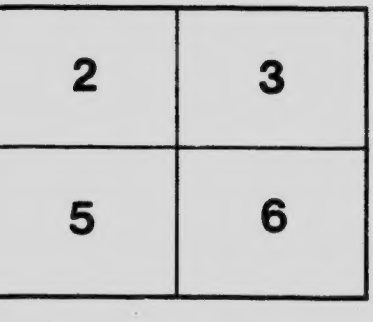

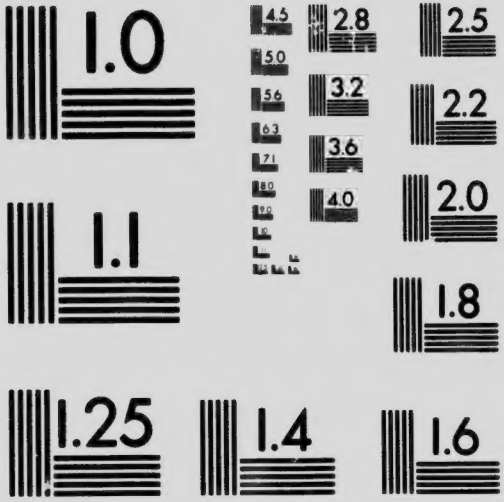

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A STVDENT'S WEEK OF PRAYER

By E.M.KN

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
GENERAL SYNOD, ARCHIVES

A STUDENT'S WEEK OF PRAYER

By E. M. KNOX
Principal of Havergal College.

Author of "Bible Lessons on Genesis, Exodus, the Acts of the Apostles," "The Girl of the New Day."

Introduction by
N. W. HOYLES, K.C., LL.D.,
Principal of the Law School, Toronto.

INTRODUCTION.

Carlyle once wrote to a friend: "Prayer is and remains the native and deepest impulse of the soul of man."

Yet, in these latter times, it has been said, "all the characteristic enthusiasms of our day cluster around work."

Family Prayers are seldom used, even it is to be feared in professedly Christian homes, and, as a necessary result, the habit of private prayer must suffer.

I welcome therefore this little booklet, compiled by my friend, Miss Knox, as a means under the Holy Spirit of God, of reviving the spirit and practice of private prayer.

Intended primarily for the use of students, I am convinced that very many older persons will find it helpful. Simple and practical in style, deeply devotional, and true in its spirit to the teaching of God's Holy Word, I heartily commend it to young and old.

N.W.H.

FOREWORD.

The following Prayers (with thoughts and phrases interwoven from varying sources), have been written in view of the difficulties of to-day and with a special longing after reality. We are realizing better than ever that it we would pray effectively we must think effectively, and that Prayer is *not* a magic charm, *not* a mere grasping after the good things of life, *not* a shirking of the ill, but something far grander, far nobler.

What then is Prayer? True Prayer is a "practice of the presence of God," such as that of the greatest of our Scotch forefathers in the Maritime Provinces, of whom it is recorded that "they saw and felt God everywhere." But prayer goes deeper, and may be defined as a deliberate opening of the life to God, a determined seeking to be ruled and swayed down to the minutest detail by a power infinitely stronger, infinitely purer than our own. It is entering into the presence chamber of an Almighty Father and Friend; it is clasping the Hand which leads us across the troublous waters of life to the harbour "where no storm can come, where the green swell is in the haven dumb, and out of the swing of the sea."

Prayer may be unwritten or written. Unwritten Prayer lies first in a personal confession of sin, a daily standing at the foot of the Cross till, like Christian, the burden rolls away and we see it no more. But true Prayer goes further. It is a song of praise when the soul, set free from the consciousness of sin, is at wing on its flight to God. Then further still, it is

placing the day's anxiety, the day's opportunity for self and for others in the hand of an all-wise Counsellor and Friend.

Written Prayer can never take the place of unwritten, that is to say, spontaneous prayer, but it can and does serve its own end by putting into words what we all feel and need but cannot at the moment readily express.

But all Prayer, written or unwritten, finds its completion in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer, the prayer which breathes a foretaste of the length, breadth, depth and height of the love of Christ, the "Our Father," the first prayer lisped at our mother's knee, the "Our Father," the last prayer which instinctively lingers on our dying lips as we pass into the immediate presence of God.

E.M.K.

SUNDAY MORNING.

LORD JESUS, our Sun and Shield, at the beginning of this Holy Day of rest and gladness, we come for strength and light. Let Thy power rest upon all Ministers, Missionaries, Sunday School Teachers and others who are speaking and working for Thee this day. Be with us all at home and in Thy House, in the reading of Thy Word and in receiving the tokens of Thy love. Let the consciousness of Thy presence stay our restlessness and turn our anxious thoughts to Thee. In place of living in one idle day-dream after another, grant to us each a vision of our life as it lies open before Thee. Speak, Lord, for Thy servants hear. Lord Jesus, make Thyself to us this day a living reality, for in Thy light only we see light. Amen.

I WILL arise and go to Thee, my Father, and confess that I have sinned against Heaven and before Thee. Loose me, I beseech Thee, from the chain and from the power of sin. Lord God, I am only a beginner in Thy School, reveal Thy truth to me day by day. Incline me to give quiet time to the reading of Thy Word and to prayer. Grant that I may follow closely in the footsteps of my Master, lest I miss a chance of service and pass by some to whom I might have been sent on an errand by Thee. If any are weak give me strength to help them; if any blind, give me light to guide them unto Thee. Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

HOLY FATHER, in the quiet of this evening when all the world over men and women are thinking of Thee, let Thy calm descend upon us, we pray Thee. Be with all at home and far away who are praying for us and for whom we would now pray. Keep us near Thee throughout the coming week, as Thou hast kept us to-day. Be beside us at each turn of the road. Let Thy healing touch rest upon any who are in sorrow, sickness or suffering. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, I thank Thee for the message of love which Thou hast sent me this day, and for the pardon which Thou hast promised to all who truly turn to Thee. Thou hast been with me in Thy House and at home. Lift my thoughts to the time when I shall be eternally with Thee in the home which Thou art preparing for me. I cannot fathom this Thy wondrous tenderness and love in calling me, but I can believe Thy promise, and I know that Thou art my Father and my Friend. I long to glorify Thee and to finish the work which Thou hast given me to do. Into Thy hands I commit my spirit this night. Keep me, oh keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O GOD, by the power of Thy indwelling Spirit, strengthen me for a clear discharge of the week's work now before me. Lead me hour by hour for I have no Guide but Thee. Help me to press forward, caring little for my own honour or credit, but greatly for the fulfilling of Thy task. I am learning and working in the great School of Life. Thou hast called me to improve the talents which Thou hast given me. Teach me to look forward to the ever-approaching hour when Thou wilt return and call me to Thy side to hear the lesson which Thou Thyself hast set me. If things go ill with me, keep me patient and cheerful; if well, steady and quiet. May I live in kindly fellowship with my comrades, working together in honour and clean mirth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, pour into our hearts such love toward Thee that we, loving Thee above all things, may seek Thee and Thee only. Help us to cast aside useless forms and shadows, to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Give us an abiding awe and reverence of Thy Holy Name. Let no light, irreverent or profane word cross our lips. May we be consecrated to Thee and to Thy service, this day and forever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MY HEAVENLY FATHER, I draw near to Thee, once again, to thank Thee for Thy loving care and protection during the past day. Thou hast given me my health and strength, my reason and understanding, my work and power to do it. Forgive the carelessness, self-seeking, and forgetfulness which have marred and hindered it. Accept whatever I have tried to do which has been well-pleasing in Thy sight. Take me into Thy care and keeping through the hours of the night. Through the long day I have laboured, Lord, Oh give me now repose. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

O GREAT CAPTAIN of our Salvation, Who knowest the evil on every side and the need of outstanding leaders for the right, look down upon me and upon my comrades now training at school and at home. Help us to make such a wise use of these swiftly passing days that faithful and strong leaders may be raised up from among us who will one day be mighty in helping to turn the tide of evil and in doing battle against all deceit, hypocrisy and lies. The time is short, Lord Jesus, return in power and reign among us forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Thou who art about my path by day and around my bed by night, keep me upright in thought, word and deed. Help me to realize Thy Fatherly presence everywhere, and see the tokens of Thy love around me. Let me live in the light of Thy countenance and rejoice in the sunshine of Thy love. Make me anxious for nothing, save only to be faithful to my trust; careful for nothing, save only to leave the issue in Thy hand. Strengthen me by the power of Thy Holy Spirit from day to day, and from hour to hour, till the shadows are past, and I stand before Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who makest us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, quicken my conscience so that I may swiftly carry out the suggestions of Thy Holy Spirit. If the way be hard, help me to bear my cross without flinching; if the path be bewildering, to do the right without heeding consequences. Teach me to give freely without counting the cost; to endure patiently without murmuring and to suffer without depressing others. I can do nothing of myself. Out of the treasure of Thy royal bounty fulfil my need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Shield and Defence, I thank Thee for the loving care which has watched over and protected me all the day long. For the sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour, who died for me, forgive the things that I have *done* which I ought not to have done and the things left *undone* which I ought to have done. Thou hast given me my daily duty and hast chosen my lot in life, grant that I may not look upon my opportunity lightly, but consider it a stewardship of which I must one day render an account. Give me such wealth of Thy Holy Spirit that my duties may be discharged to Thy honour and glory, and to the well-being of all around me. Grant this, O Lord, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

LORD JESUS, let Thy mighty succour be around me and all whom I love, especially any with whom the battle of life has gone hardly this day. At times it is dark behind and dark before, but I lay my hand in Thine, and the darkness turns into light, for here below is the shadow, but with Thee is the day, and Thou knowest all and carest for all. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD and Heavenly Father, Thou who hast wakened my body from sleep, quicken my soul, I beseech Thee, to love and serve Thee. What is ahead of me this day I cannot tell. I know only that Thou hast promised to be my Leader and my Guide. Show me Thy way and lead me in the right path. Strengthen me to resist the evil which would entice me away from Thee. I know that I have too often failed, too often broken my good resolutions. Thou canst, Thou wilt forgive. Once again at the day's start I dedicate myself to Thee. At work and at home wherever I may be, keep me pure and free from evil. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, who hast promised to guard and guide Thy servants into Thy perfect light and truth, fulfil Thy promise to me this day. Keep me from carelessness and unreality, from praying for the higher life and drifting back into the lower. Lift me onto the hilltops, away from the valley where I shall never find Thee, and beyond the mists of my selfishness and cherished sins. My lot in life is uncertain, Thou mayest call me from the quiet shelter of home into the hurried sphere of outside life. Grant that however busied my hand may be, my heart and mind may heavenward ascend and with Thee continually dwell. Give me an abiding longing for Thy truth, and a burning desire to love and serve Thee, till I reach Thy presence and find the perfect joy and peace of the home above. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR FATHER, far away yet ever near, grant us this evening a greater fear and reverence of Thy Holy Name. Let us hear Thy voice speaking and carry out Thy will as joyously as in the days to come we shall hear Thy voice and do Thy bidding in Heaven. Give us day by day the strength for body and for soul. May Thy Word at school and at home be everywhere studied as a first duty and delight. Forgive, we pray Thee, the jealousy and striving of differing nations and differing workers. Help us to forgive one another as freely as Thou hast forgiven and loved us. Strengthen us to stem the flood of impurity in our midst. Make us quickly sensitive to sin, determined to shun evil wherever it crosses our path, in books, plays or among our comrades. Deliver us from the great Enemy of souls. For Thou art our God and Thine is the Kingdom, and Thine the eternal power and glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD JESUS, Who hast taught us that him that overcometh Thou wilt make a pillar in Thy Temple, grant, in the midst of wearying drudgery or sharp temptation that we may catch a vision of the purpose of our life and yield ourselves as living stones to be wrought into whatsoever shape Thou the Great Architect mayest design, and be built into Thy temple, according to Thy will. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the light returns and brings its daily round of duties. Make me humble enough to do small things gladly for Thee, alert and brave enough to undertake greater things if Thou shouldst choose them. I long to recognize Thy voice wherever and whenever I may hear it. Keep me from putting any obstacle in the way of Thy kind and loving hand. I have faults, help me to see them and strive against them, instead of idly thinking and dwelling upon the faults of others. Thou knowest me through and through, far better than I know myself. I trust Thee and listen to Thy voice. I will walk patiently step by step, content to wait for the time when Thou presently wilt make plain the meaning of all that puzzles and confuses me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who wilt forgive and put far away the sins of all who repent and turn to Thee, free me from the evil which at times hangs heavy over me and would hide the sunshine of Thy face. Especially put away from me all bitterness and unkindness. Let the words of my mouth and the imaginations of my heart be alway acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, give me grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light. Enable me as Thy faithful soldier and servant to resist temptation and having done all to stand. By the power of Thy Holy Spirit help me to be loyally true, and to make known Thy love in my daily calling to those around me, and to others far away, according to my opportunity. Teach me day by day what Thou wouldst have me do. Show me how by my prayers, my gifts and my daily living, I may set forward Thy glory and hasten the coming of Thy Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, it is not night if Thou be near. Look down in mercy upon all whom I love, especially all now absent from me. Give Thine angels charge over them and over me, to keep us in all our ways. If it be Thy holy will bring us soon together again, but if our callings still lie far apart, draw us daily nearer Thee, looking for the time when in Thy heavenly home we shall rejoice with Thee forever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THOU SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD, Who hast loved Thine own even unto the end, Thou Saviour Whose hands of mercy and pity were outstretched upon the Cross for us, save us, and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord. Grant that we may lose our lives to save them for Thee, that we may sacrifice to conquer for Thee. We offer ourselves, body, soul and spirit, a living sacrifice in Thy service. Cast out the lurking love of sin, the wayward will, the anxious doubt, which too often hinders and paralyzes us. Prepare us at Thy will for work in the mission field or at home. Thy vows are upon us, O Christ, help us to be content to press forward, unmoved by idle criticism, so long as Thou knowest the way that we tread, joyous so long as Thy love is over our head. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who hast bidden us serve Thee with a perfect heart and with a willing mind, in the urgency of our duty let us hear Thy voice saying "Fear not for I am with Thee." Make us realize that Thou hast a message for every one of us regarding our daily life at home, in the street, and at work. Grant that wherever that work may lead us we may be swift to hear, slow to retort, slow to wrath. Help us to toil gladly, rejoicing in Thy presence and in the work which Thou hast allotted us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, Who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, I turn to Thee in Thy great love this night. I know only too well that I have sinned against Thee in thought, word and deed, and I fear, but for Thy eternal promise which rings out over land and sea, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." Remembering that promise, Father, I come. Thou wilt not cast me out. My faith is weak, doubts and fears too often draw me away from Thee, but Thou wilt not let me go. Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief. Let the sunshine of Thy love dispel the lingering evil in my heart. Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

O THOU TRUE LIGHT, that lightest every man that cometh into the world, touch my heart and lighten my understanding. Thou art pure; teach me to hate all profane books and evil talk, and above all, any moment in which an impure thought has clouded my mind and threatened to separate my soul from Thee. Thou art Love; keep me from murmuring at my lot in life or coveting gifts which Thou hast seen fit to withhold. Thou art Truth; teach me to hate every kind of underhand dealing and to strive to lead a purer, truer life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Whose truth unchanged has ever stood, and Who savest those who on Thee call, cast about us this day, we beseech Thee, a fence which the Evil One cannot pass. Clothe us with the armour which his darts cannot pierce. Enable us to work diligently and faithfully, not with eye service but in singleness of heart, remembering that without Thee we can do nothing, and that in Thy fear is the beginning of wisdom. Thou art our Judge, and to Thee we look and to Thee only in all our saying and doing. We ask this for Christ's sake. Amen.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, Who hast promised that Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, grant me Thy peace, the peace of sin forgiven. Grant me a calm and quiet trust in Thee and a stern mastery of my own will. In the midst of anxiety keep me from self, in stress of work from speaking impatiently, in difficulty, from having no time for the needs and interests of others. With a heart at leisure from itself may I soothe and sympathize. At peace with Thee may I be at peace with all around me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who savest by Thy right hand all who put their trust in Thee, I lay at Thy feet another week's work, such as it is, with all the sins that need Thy forgiveness and with all the flaws that need the mending of Thy gracious hand. Help me day by day to remember that the time is short, and that this earth is not an idle paradise into which I have wandered by chance, but a battlefield ordained of old, in which each must play his part and the stakes are life and death. Enable me to take the side of the right and to go fearlessly forward. Let each week-end, as it passes, find me and my comrades looking beyond the dark outline of the hills of time, faithful to our charge, one step nearer Thee. Take us all into Thy holy keeping, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth and in the world to come life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEAVENLY FATHER, Who hast prepared for us a city eternal in the heavens where we may abide with Thee forever, help us to look forward quietly to the night, ever drawing nearer, when we shall put aside our well-worn tools, without a sigh, and step forward to the better work and the more joyful rest of our home above. Thither lead us, our King and our God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION.

LORD Jesu, Son of God, Thou who wast bound that I might go free; Thou who wast alone in Thine hour of need that I might never be forsaken; Thou who wast mocked that I might never be ashamed; Thou who wast crucified to unfasten the chain of my sin and bid it fall away from me, hear me and help me in this solemn hour. I am about to draw near to Thee, help me to repent me truly of my sins, to have a strong and living faith in Thee with a thankful remembrance of Thy death, and to be in charity with all men. As I receive the mystic tokens of Thy love fill my heart with the consciousness of Thy redeeming love and the joy of Thy perfect pardon. Let me hear Thy voice saying, "My strength is made perfect in weakness;" "Because I live ye shall live also." Let me see Thee and Thee only, and dedicate myself afresh to Thee. Feed me, O Bread of God; help me, O Son of man, I ask for Thy name's sake. Amen.

FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

LORD JESUS, Who at Thy first coming didst summon Thy servants, and after training, didst send them to prepare Thy way before Thee, look down, we beseech Thee, upon our Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and in this hour of opportunity let Thy special favour and guidance rest upon them. Root out all error and whatsoever is contrary to Thy Holy Will. Implant in every student an increasing hunger after Thy truth and longing to lead others to Thee. Let pure knowledge and a reverent study of Thy

Holy Word prevail. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit upon the coming generation of students and grant that they may consecrate themselves to the highest learning, and to Thy service at home or abroad. O Thou Lord of the harvest, prepare Thine own labourers and send them forth into Thy harvest. Hear us, Thou Lover of souls, we humbly beseech Thee. Amen.

BEFORE BIBLE STUDY.

TEACH me, Lord Jesus, I pray Thee, out of Thy Holy Word. Enable me by the power of Thy Holy Spirit to see Thee manifested throughout as my Saviour and my God, and firm in that consciousness to embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which Thou hast given me. Lord, hear, I beseech Thee, and mercifully grant my prayer. Amen.

FOR THE CHOICE OF A VOCATION.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, Who in Thine eternal counsels hast allotted to every man his place and purpose in Thy Kingdom, and hast commanded him to work, grant that I may consider carefully the varying claims of home duty or professional life which are calling me. Help me, by watching Thy leading, to discover Thy purpose in my life and by a prayerful study of Thy Holy Word to fit myself for the work lying before me. I am Thine, Lord God, show me what Thou wouldst have me do. Strengthen me to answer to Thy call, "Here am I, send me." Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR PARDON.

LORD JESUS, at Whose Judgment Seat I must one day give account of all my saying and doing, how can I stand before Thee? Thine eyes are as a flame of fire and Thou readest the secret thoughts of my heart. I confess that I have fallen very far short. I acknowledge that, weighed even in the balance of my own self-knowledge I am found wanting; how much more in the balance of Thy perfect knowledge! But in Thine infinite mercy Thou pitiest and knowest my need. Without one plea, save that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come. Amen.

COLLECTS (SELECTED).

DEFEND me, O Lord, with Thine Almighty power, that I may continue Thine forever and daily increase in wisdom and knowledge more and more, until I come to Thy everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

MY GOD and King, grant that I may never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but manfully to fight under His banner against the world, the flesh and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto my life's end. Amen.

MY HEAVENLY FATHER, Who hast loved me with an everlasting love and art ever mindful of me, strengthen me to carry my Cross till the shadows lengthen, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and my work is done. Then, Lord, in Thine infinite mercy, grant me, I beseech Thee, a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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